PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
Balanced News, Fearless Views



BLOODY TUESDAY Two bodies lie next to a burned van as a police investigator examines one of three bombing sites in Basilan where Abu Sayyaf bandits, wearing police and military uniforms detonated bombs and opened fire on Tuesday in Isabela City, first time in the city after 30 years.

15 dead in Basilan blasts

Abu Sayyaf tagged in simultaneous attacks

By Julie S. Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao
and Marlon Ramos
in Manila

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Abu Sayyaf bandits took their campaign of terror to the heart of Basilan on Tuesday, setting off bombs at a Roman Catholic cathedral, school grandstand and three other places, and clashing with government forces in Isabela City.

At least 15 people, including the brother of Abu Sayyaf leader Puruji Indama, were killed in the attacks staged by armed men wearing police and military uniforms, reports said last night.

Basilan Bishop Martin Jumoad appealed to local residents to stay calm and pray as he called on military and police officials to run after those responsible for the attacks, which happened for the first time in the city after more

15 DEAD/A6



GARCI GOES HI-TECH? Guillermo Luz, a former executive director of the Makati Business Club, Gus Lagman and Corazon Akol talk of the real possibility of computer glitches during the May 10 elections at a press conference at Dusit Hotel in Makati City on Tuesday.

Garci's ghost haunts techies

By Kristine L. Alave
and Norman Bordadora

THE SPECTERS OF "GARCI" and glitches are fueling urgent calls for hybrid elections.

Information technology professionals fearing hiccups in the automated election system (AES) on May 10 have pressed demands for a parallel manual count.

They said that the Commission on Elections (Comelec) should consider a manual count after the electronic transmission of results to various canvassing centers and before the proclamation of any candidate.

Maria Cristina Coronel, president of the Philippine Software Industry Association, said that the partial manual count for the presidential, vice presidential and the mayoral races could be done by the board of election inspectors (BEI).

GARCI'S/A20

Gov't sees 30% failure of automated elections

By Christine O. Avendaño,
Kristine L. Alave
and Michael Lim Ubac

MACHINE CONKING OUT, YES. No election? No way!

Poll officials are preparing for a worst-case scenario in which 30 percent of the machines to be used in the May 10 automated elections will be hit by hiccups but are confident this will not torpedo the results of the national races.

Defense Secretary Norberto Gonzales yesterday said that Commission on Elections (Comelec) Chair Jose Melo had told President Macapagal-Arroyo at a meeting of the National Security Council (NSC) several months ago that he did not expect a failure of elections.

But the worst-case scenario the Comelec is preparing for is

GOV'T SEES/A6

GMA's economic guru leaving her for Noynoy

By Gil Cabacungan,
Philip C. Tubeza
and Jerome Aning

ONE OF THE MEN PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo heavily relies on, her top economic adviser of Albay Gov. Joey Salceda, is leaving Lakas-Kampi-CMD to join the campaign of front-running Liberal Party presidential candidate Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III.

GMA'S ECONOMIC/A12

Loren keeps hands off 'womanizers'

By Leila B. Salaverria

ALL IS FAIR IN LOVE AND POLITICS—or at least the lone woman candidate for vice president seems to think so.

The Nacionalista Party's (NP) Loren Legarda, a self-proclaimed champion of women's rights, is keeping her hands off the decision of NP presidential

LOREN/A10



Palace cites 10 reasons GMA must appoint CJ

By Christine O. Avendaño

"SOMEONE HAS TO BE THE adult around here and do what needs to be done, no matter how unpopular. Once again, that job falls on the President."

This statement was No. 1 on the 10 reasons President Macapagal-Arroyo should appoint the next Chief Justice that Malacañang issued yes-

PALACE/A10

Davide hits graft in gov't, backs Aquino

By Philip C. Tubeza

CEBU CITY—THE MAN WHO went to Edsa nine years ago to administer the oath of office to then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, thus making her president on the spot, is now turning his back on her.

Saying the public "can never forget" the corruption in the present administration, former Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. yesterday endorsed presidential candidate Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III so the country would have a shot "at real change."

Davide, the country's ambassador to the United Nations until last month, said he resigned from his post so that he could "campaign for change."

He said his home province of Cebu might even give Aquino more votes than what it delivered

DAVIDE/A11

Nograles: I'm Lakas head, why should I quit

ONLY A FEW HOURS AFTER declaring that he was thinking of leaving the ruling Lakas-Kampi-CMD, Speaker Prospero Nograles was singing a different tune.

"Why will I resign? Why? Why should I?" Nograles told reporters covering his campaign sortie in Davao City on Monday night. He said that as a senior member, he could not allow "my party to be wrecked by any wrecking crew."

"No, I am not transferring. I am the Lakas president," Nograles said. Told by reporters that his statements were confusing, he curtly said: "What's confusing about them?" Then he left.

In a statement issued yesterday that curiously dropped Kampi from the name of the ruling party, Nograles warned its standard-bearer, Gilbert "Gibo" Teodoro, to "shape up" or party members might move to adopt another presidential candidate.

"Enough is enough. Gibo must shape up—address the

NOGRALES/A11



GOODBYE GIRL US President Barack Obama greets President Macapagal-Arroyo before dinner at the Washington Convention Center during the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington on Monday.

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FrontPage

EZ2: 19 6 / 3 25 / 31 4

SUERTRES: 6 8 6 / 1 5 3 / 3 4 4

SIX DIGIT: 7 1 2 8 2 5

6/42 LUZ-VIS-MIN: 2 9 35 36 37 40 — P15,376,973.40

SUPERLOTTO 6/49: 3 8 14 26 28 46 — P16,000,000.00

NP: Noynoy broke the law

Security agency under Cory's term said to bag gov't contracts

SOON AFTER CORAZON AQUINO BECAME president, her son Benigno III or "Noynoy," along with some relatives and friends, put up a security agency that obtained contracts from the government.

"Blood of my father"

True nature



AQUINO

Ampatuan to be tried in Taguig



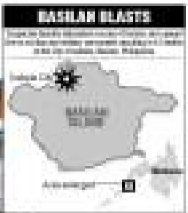
Aquino, Villar over the limit in campaign ads, says Nielsen

Mikey questions Comelec power to disqualify him

Rains, clouds won't last, say weathermen

15 dead in Basilan blasts





BOMB SQUAD

Prematurely triggered

Cathedral explosion

Detonated bomb

City under control

Too much

Gov't sees 30-percent failure in automated elections

Not enough to disrupt polls

Security forces

BEI to make decision

No power vacuum

No surprise

Internet, texts plunge campaigns to ugly lows

Not poor

False report

Serious issues ignored

Text blasting

AFP

The Daily Gospel

Wednesday, April 14, 2010



EXTREME CONDITIONS.
EXTREME TEAR.
EXTREME WEAR.
EXTREMELY TOUGH.
TIBAY. TIPID. TINDI.
CONDURA
EXTREME
PROTECTED WITH DURAKOTE
TOUGH INSIDE
BUILT FOR PHILIPPINE CONDITIONS
CONDURA
The better choice. Made even better.

Undecided voters keep broadcaster's VP hopes alive

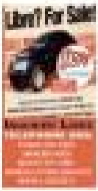


SONZA

Kapatiran wants free time, space in media

By Dona Pazzibugan

'Deprived'







Erap 'exposes' self, provides comic relief

By Christian V. Esguerra

Late for lunch



Nograles: I'm Lakas head, why should I quit

Loren keeps hands off 'womanizers': Pacman, Willie, Dolphy



Palace cites 10 reasons GMA must appoint new CJ



GORDON on the giant screen at the peace and human rights forum in UP Diliman.

Gordon threatens to sue pollsters

By Edsan C. Tandoc Jr.

In Bohol, Dick sees the sights

Edsan C. Tandoc Jr.

NO MORE FENCE-SITTING

Aquino or Villar? NPC may soon have to choose–Sotto

By Cathy Yamsuan

NPC members split

Raids won't work

GMA's economic guru leaving her for Noynoy

Irreplaceable future



'GMA et al. to blame'

Dictated upon

Davide hits graft ...

Obstacle to Gibo campaign

Integrity crucial issue

No regrets

Boomerang



Shell seeks contempt raps vs B

[illegible]

Big surprise

[illegible]

Surety bond

[illegible]

RP travel tours 'repackaged'

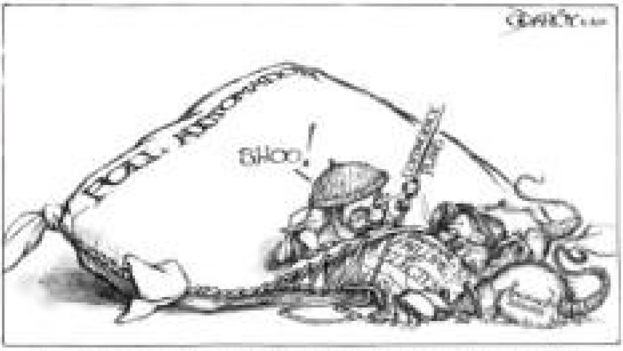
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Thailand on the brink

EDITORIAL



Three shining jewels in the mud of politics

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

Edsa on my mind

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

Washington and 'failed elections'

COMMENTARY

W. Scott Thompson, D.Phil.

Condo-mania

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan



He wants to be the 'bastonero'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



Revisiting the Kalantiaw hoax

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo







Measuring stick for a president

LETTERS



SC 'crossed the limits' on midnight appointments

Luxury ship's importation given tax exemption

GSIS pensioner's delayed pension already credited

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

NPA frees mayoral bet in Davao Or.



ECOTOURISM
These days, boats in Donsol, Sorsogon venture out into sea more often not to catch fish, but glimpses of whale sharks, an endangered species locally known as "butanding," the biggest fish in the world, that has made the town famous.

TAGUM CITY—COMMUNIST GUERRILLAS FREED A CANDIDATE for mayor they seized for failure to pay campaign fees in Davao Oriental, the first case so far that confirmed military reports of direct guerrilla involvement in the elections.

Hostages

Street assassination

NEWSBRIEFS

PANGASINAN

Quake rocks Pangasinan

CAPIZ

Capiz dance fest

COTABATO CITY

Bangon: It's renewal



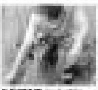
PREACHER Eddie Villanueva, presidential candidate of Bangon Pilipinas, at a campaign sortie in Tondo, Manila.

ALBAY

Ex-solon Imperial; 79

CAMARINES SUR

El Niño damage: P500M



A SCENE typical in farms suffering from drought.

CAMPAIGN

Mitra: Campaign 'unnerving'



Gov't, Moro rebs accept Norway

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

A mountain people's proud legacy

By Delmar Cariño
Bontoc, Mt. Province



SWEATY BUT UNTIRING, THE people of Mt. Province braved the scorching heat and converged in the capital town of Bontoc for a cultural festival that has become a rallying point of unity amid a divisive political season.





Political color

Culture, way of life



TIENDESITAS
en frontera verde

Explodes with Hottest Summer Events!







Other events in the lineup include traditional Tiendesitas events:

May 3 – 9, 2010	'Flora Asiatica'
May 16, 2010	30th and 31st Cat Championship Show Feline Fanciers of the Philippines, Inc.
May 19 – 23, 2010	Grand Marian Images Exhibit
May 23, 2010	Grand Santacruzan

Villar should take psycho test first, says Aquino

'Garci's ghost' haunts techies; manual count urged





Kobe to sit out last two Lakers games

SPORTS

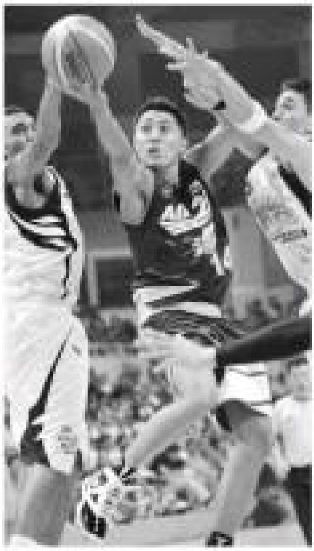
Norwood in, Raymundo out for All-Stars



NORWOOD: Star attraction

Llamados eye third win vs Tigers today

By Musong R. Castillo



PBA Legends fully booked

In Huddle



MB Masters fires off; low scores tipped

By Musong R. Castillo







Filoil caging: Falcons play Fil-Aussie vs Cards today

By Jasmine W. Payo

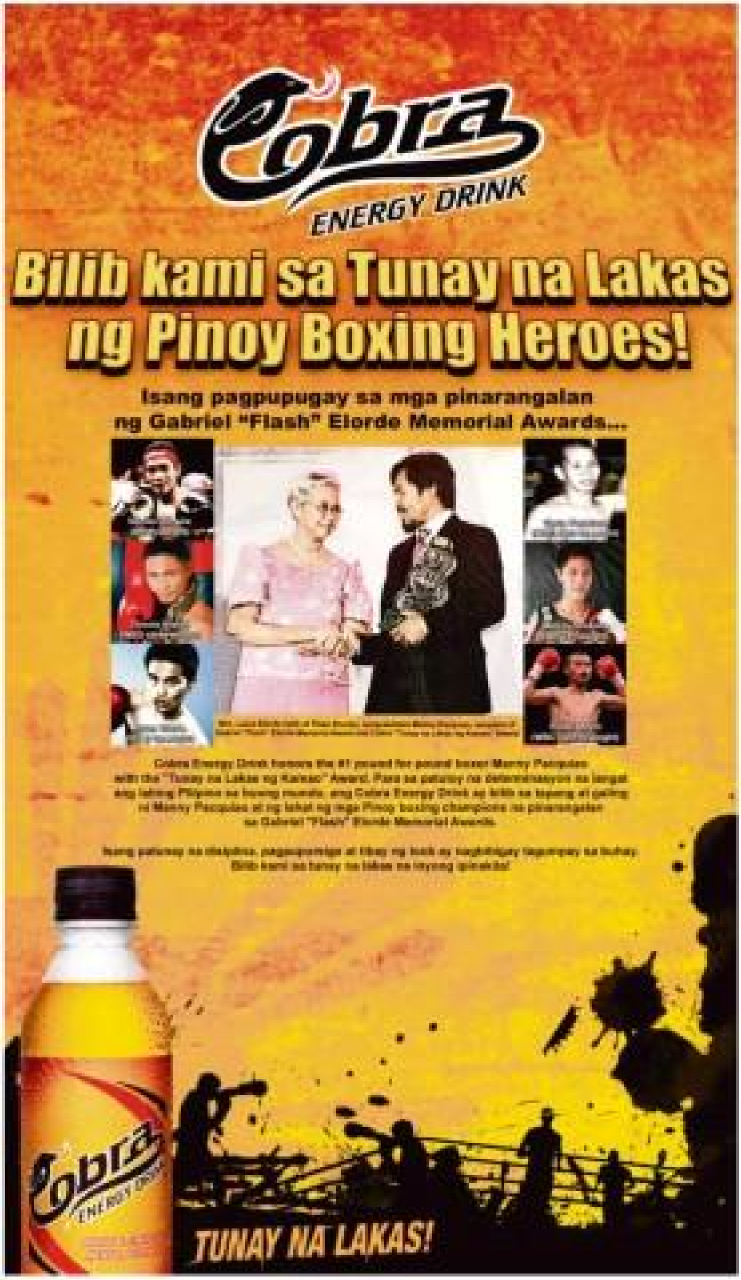
LWUA-A stuns Tagaytay, shares team chess lead

Top billiards aces may leave RP





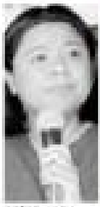
HITTING PAYDIRT



More Palaro marks tumble

180 tiffs in Rambulan finals today

Pasay's Papa Jack derby Friday


COSCOLLUELA


COJUANGCO

Lady Pirates end two-year spell

SSC gives Southwestern U rude V-League welcome

By Cedelf P Tupas



Coscolluela confident of FEI blessing

By June Navarro

Tour excites UCI head

By June Navarro

Homan's the man for Smart Gilas?

SPORTSWATCH

US Kids qualifier slated

Golf for a cause tees off

SILVER CUP

Ibarra headlines PCSO race field


QUICE

Coke launches grassroots hoops


FRANCISCO

Late bloomer seizes a late opportunity

By Cedelf P Tupas



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Aplus METRO

Editor: Abelardo S. Ulanday

DID YOU KNOW

DOROTEO Jose Street in Manila was named after a Filipino patriot who led a demonstration against friars in 1888.

Cyril J. Bonabente, Inquirer Research



ONE OF THE 21 bus drivers who staged a march to the Department of Justice where they filed a case against a recruitment firm and a lending company shows photographers his shirt which calls for justice and an end to human trafficking.

21 bus drivers sue 2 firms

By Jeannette I. Andrade

TWENTY-ONE FILIPINO BUS drivers who were recruited for high-paying jobs in Dubai last year but ended up scavenging for garbage before they were repatriated to Manila filed charges yesterday against the officials of the firm that had recruited them and a money lending company.

The 21 were among 137 bus drivers who were stranded for months in the United Arab Emirates after the jobs they were promised with Dubai's Road and Transport Authority (RTA) turned out to be nonexistent. To survive, they were forced to raid a garbage dump beside the tenement building where they were housed, exchanging the cans and metal scraps for money so that they could buy food.

Charged with illegal recruitment, syndicated estafa and human trafficking before the Department of Justice were 12 officers and employees of recruitment firm CVM International Services, including its chair and president Norvelita Lallave, and seven board members and agents of RJJ Lending Financing Corp., a financing company.

At a press conference before the filing of charges, Blas F. Ople Policy Center president and Nacionalista Party senatorial candidate Susan Ople stressed that this was the first time that a lending company was included in a criminal case against suspected illegal recruiters.

21 BUS/A16

MMDA targets illegally posted campaign ads

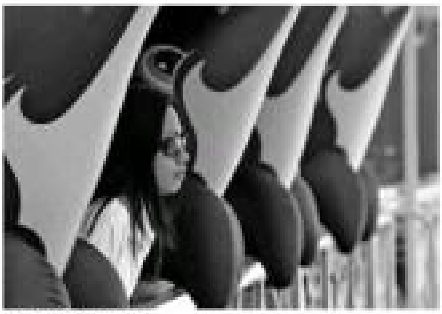
By Nina Calleja and Julie M. Aurelio

SOME 700 WORKERS OF THE METROpolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) will be deployed to major and secondary roads all throughout the metropolis beginning next week. Their mission: To take down illegally posted campaign materials.

MMDA Chair Oscar Inocentes said members of the Sidewalk Clearing Operations Group, Road Clearing Operations Group and Landscape Management Office would be backed by a team from the Philippine National Police.

MMDA/A16

'Ebarle shot in the heart at pointblank range'



Manila police official files case vs 3 subordinates

21 bus drivers sue 2 firms

EPD launches cops on bikes program to complement mobile police patrols



MetroBriefs

Power seminar set

Free computer lessons

Book Day on April 24

MMDA targets illegally posted campaign ads

China to work with US on Iran sanctions



US PRESIDENT Barack Obama (right) holds a warm-up session with Chinese President Hu Jintao before joining a working dinner with other world leaders attending a nuclear summit in Washington. AP

WORLDBRIEFS

Vatican to bishops: Follow law; report abuse

Pakistan air strike kills 71 civilians

Conservatives to fight Obama on SC pick

Brazilian rancher guilty in US nun's slay

US homeowners making sacrifices

Somali Islamists ban songs

Poles weep as first lady's body returns home

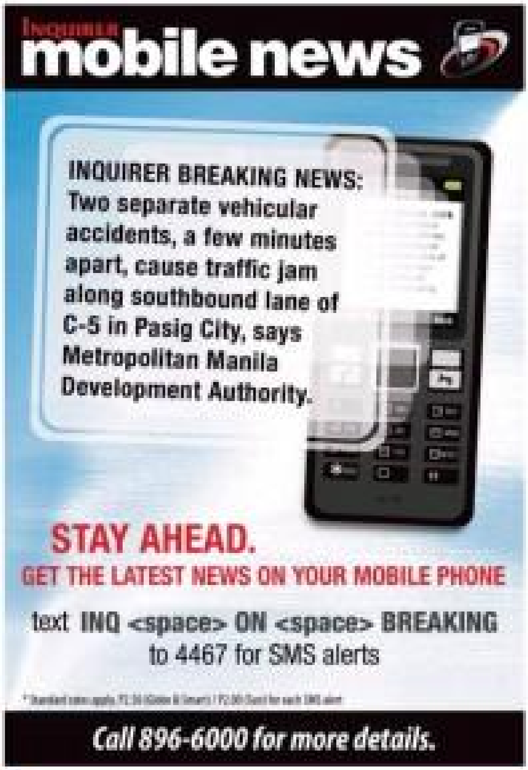


JAROSLAW Kaczynski, twin brother of the late president, and Marta Kaczynski, only child of the late first lady, welcome the arrival of Maria Kaczynska's wooden casket from Russia.

Honda to lease electric scooters in December



HONDA Motor Co. unveils on Tuesday its electric EV-neo scooter with none of the motorcycle's grimy growl.



The WORLD

Red Shirts vow more street rallies

BANGKOK—ANTIGOVERNMENT PROTESTERS ON TUESDAY threatened to unleash another street "offensive" aimed at deposing the prime minister and described an unexpected ruling that his party be disbanded as just a ploy to buy time in Thailand's political crisis.

[illegible]



BUSINESS

RP lags neighbors in poverty-reduction goal

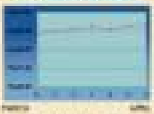
ADB says social sectors getting less investments from government

THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK HAS RAISED ITS growth projection for the Philippines for 2010, citing improved global economic conditions that should boost foreign investments and demand for the country's exports.

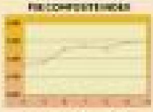
IN THIS ISSUE

Exports surged 42.3% in February to $3.57B

CURRENCIES



STOCK MARKET



Stocks gain slightly

Peso seen staying within 44:$1 territory this year

Barclays expect surge in forex inflows

Meralco bill, times two

BIZ BUZZ *By the staff*

'Lopez-led' no more

A rare alliance

GSIS' new finance chief

More competition

Treasury raises ₱3.36B from bond sale

RP lags neighbors in poverty ...

Exports surged 42.3% ...

Stocks gain slightly

Globe seen tapping debt market in 2nd semester

Telco aims to raise $150M for 2011 expenses

[illegible]

Splash expands operations

[illegible]

Bangko Sentral OKs sale of EIB Savings

[illegible]

Aboitiz unit sets higher capex for '10

[illegible]

RLC reports brisk sales of Magnolia project

[illegible]

Benpres 2009 profit surges by 310% to P12B

[illegible]

Philippine Stock Exchange

[illegible]

Currencies

[illegible]

Aussie firm gets mining permit for Masbate gold project

By Riza T. Olchondra

AUSTRALIAN-REGISTERED CGA Mining Ltd. has secured a new exploration permit that increases the potential of the Masbate gold project, which is located in the municipality of Aroroy, Masbate.

In a disclosure to the Australian Securities Exchange, CGA said that the new exploration permit was obtained through local partner Filminera Resources Corp.

The license is for an area of about 5,231 hectares contiguous with the tenements currently covered by the Masbate gold project.

The permit allows Filminera to conduct detailed exploration activities for a period of up to six years and another two years to prepare a mining feasibility study.

"The securing of the license materially increases the exploration potential of the Masbate gold project and an aggressive exploration program is planned in the next 12 months to seek to materially increase reserves and resources for the project," CGA said.

The Masbate gold project in the Philippines was successfully developed with the first gold production on May 12, 2009.

The project has a total indicated resource base of 4.15 million ounces of gold and an inferred resource base of 3.22 million ounces with a probable reserve of 3.03 million ounces of gold. The project is forecast to produce over 200,000 ounces a year.

In order to reach this level of production, CGA and local partner Filminera are commissioning a second mill for the Masbate gold project. Filminera also wants to undertake expansion drilling.

In January CGA announced that it was raising A$74.6 million to repay loans and further explore the Masbate gold project.

Any further development in mining projects would help boost the country's mineral production, which surged in 2009 as metal prices recovered.

The price of gold, considered a safe haven for investments, has again breached $1,100 an ounce after dipping earlier this year to $1,080.

imi

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

AGENDA



Bosch of Germany opens communication center in RP

To service company's subsidiaries in Asia Pacific

[illegible]

Indian firm to put up call center in Iloilo

[illegible]





Asean works to liberalize finance services

States urged to promote dual listing of securities

State firm to bid out 3 more power contracts

There's more than enough rice, NFA says

Net income of Metrobank unit up 159%

Banks' exposure to bad debts declined in February

Asia shares fall; euro consolidates vs US dollar

Investors await earnings results from top US firms

LVMH Q1 sales beat forecasts



China's Sinopec to pay $5B for oil sands stake

Euro zone aid package for Greece seen as temporary solution

Starbucks to add more stores

IEA raises oil demand forecast

Business

PSALM generates P30B from retail bond offer

Demand high in largest peso-denominated issue this year

[illegible]

Emerging markets seen at risk from surge in foreign capital

[illegible]

MOTORING

E-mail: motoring@inquirer.com.ph
Editor: Jong R. Arcano

Selling like hotcakes

Car sales up as auto industry posts huge growth in first quarter

By Jong R. Arcano

HYUNDAI WAS THE biggest mover in a sparkling performance by car manufacturers in the first quarter of the year, jumping to third place in overall market share while Toyota and Mitsubishi Motors retained the top two positions.

The big news is that the auto industry as a whole stayed on a roll with a whopping 35.5 percent increase in units sold, setting a new high of 38,759 from last year's 28,561 as indicated by the latest data released by the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines, Inc. (Campi).

The even bigger news is that Hyundai has dislodged Honda from the No. 3 spot in sales driven by the high demand for its newly launched Tucson and the modest contributions by the other models like the Starex and the i10s.

Hyundai finished with sales of 4,573 units from January to March this year, barely edging Honda which had 4,500. Hyundai more than doubled its 2,206 output for the same stretch last year compared to a slight dip of 10 units for Honda.

Reaching the No. 3 position is a new milestone in the local scene for the Richard Lee-owned Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. as the Korea brand continued to creep closer to the erstwhile players, Japanese giants Toyota and Mitsubishi.

It is so far the highest position reached by Hyundai since it started local operations back in 2001.

Based on the Campi figures, Mitsubishi has managed to chop off a little more of Toyota's lead in terms of market dominance. With 7,184 units released translating to a 47.8 percent increase, Mitsubishi now has 18.6 percent market share compared to 17.8 percent last year.

Toyota's 12,048 equivalent to a 28.3 percent jump remains high for the comfortable lead of the perennial frontrunner whose mother unit [illegible] grappling with recall problems in the United States is being challenged by the aggressive moves of its competitors.

From 34.2 percent market share last year, Toyota lost more than two percentage points to 31.9 for the same three-month stretch.

But Toyota retained the frontrunner in the Triple Crown race.

Car dealers see better days ahead for their business and their optimism is bolstered by Campi's plan to raise its sales projection for 2010.

The overall trend has convinced the Campi to revise its original forecast for 2010 of 157,000 units.

"The strong first quarter result augurs well for the whole auto industry. We will have to revise our original forecast upwards given the first quarter trend. We are looking forward to continued strong sales in the coming months compared to the same period last year," said Campi president Elizabeth Lee.

"2010 is looking to be a pretty good year for auto. It is an exciting year most especially for buyers with many models to be introduced within the year as well as the upcoming and much awaited Campi Philippine International Motorshow to be held on August 19-22 this year."

Car dealers, meanwhile, are making hay because of the hot trend.

"We have a backlog of a hundred units (for the Tucson) at our Hyundai dealership at the moment and while we see it as a good problem, we can't stop knocking at the doors of our distributors since we're sure that a day of delay means customers away," said Hyundai Global president Willy Tee Ten.

Tee-Ten believes that the better-than-expected result is an indication of an improving economy although dealers like him know that there is no guarantee the strong demand is sustainable. Curbing parallel importation, he said, is the key to a healthier industry.

Which models sold the most in Q1





COMPACT PC SEDAN	
Vios	2,842
City	2,258
Accent	758
Rio 4	96
Chery	67

COMPACT PC HATCHBACK	
Jazz	220
Mazda 2	138
Swift	110
Yaris	79
[illegible]	73

MID-SIZED PC	
Corolla Altis	1,159
Civic	818
Lancer	436
Sentra	333
Mazda 3	338
Focus	257
Cruze	86
Optra	10

PICKUP	
Hilux	917
Strada	869
Navara	698
D-Max	660
Ranger	240
Frontier	94
[illegible]	29
BT-50	11

FULL-SIZE PC	
Camry	214
Accord	122
[illegible]	16
[illegible]	14

PASSENGER VAN	
Hiace	871
Starex	640
Urvan	169

SUBCOMPACT PC	
Getz	514
Celerio	333
i10	288
Alto	97
Picanto	60
Spark	20

LUXURY	
Mercedes	151
BMW	120
Volvo	74
Audi	73
Lexus	46
Porsche	41

FULL-SIZED SUV	
Prado	74
Santa Fe	66
Patrol	65
LandCruiser	53
Expedition	59
Pajero	13

CROSSOVER/MPV	
Innova	2,804
Avanza	1,419
Adventure	1,440
Crosswind	1,431
LIVINA	850
Grand Livina	192
Carens	88
Rondo	64
Previa	23
Chrysler T&C	21
Grandis	15

SMALL/MID-SIZED SUV	
Montero Sport	2,817
Tucson	1,839
Fortuner	1,683
CR-V	733
RAV4	468
Everest	425
Escape	362
Captiva	216
Alterra	177
X-Trail	163
Sorento	141

Toyota, INQUIRER explore Donsol's famed Butandings

By Tessa R. Salazar

THE GIANTS OF THEIR "SPECIES" converged last weekend in Donsol, Sorsogon Province, about 520 km from Manila. Toyota Motor Philippines and the Philippine Daily Inquirer paid a visit to Donsol's famed Butandings, or whale sharks.

The result that Saturday morning was an encounter even more than a blue moon. The world's biggest auto manufacturers and the country's most widely read newspaper swimming face to face with the world's biggest shark.

The road leading to that involved some 17 hours of swirling twists and turns, [illegible] ascents and exhilarating descents, and some pleasant detours. And lots and lots of photo ops. The road trip was a destination in itself.

But when the time came to connect with the Butandings, everything else became just an [illegible] sidelight.

It is no wonder that Time Magazine voted the Butanding interaction in Donsol Bay as the Best Animal Encounter in Asia in its 2004 year-end special report. We humans, who have been used to seeing fishes no bigger than our dinner plates in our fish bowls, suddenly encountering these gentle giants that can measure up to 12 meters long (perhaps as long as three Super Grandias) [illegible] to freak out and [illegible] back up to our pump boats. Fortunately, the biggest fish in the world consumes only one of the smallest organisms in the world, plankton (or alamang as the locals call them). Plankton are so plentiful in Donsol Bay that the sea turns murky green in color, and visibility just below the surface of the water is limited to just a few meters at some spots. And, much better for us, the whale shark swims very slowly (divers estimate their cruise speed at just 3 kph—or that is a brisk human walk).

By the end of the Butanding interaction experience three hours after boarding the 8 outriggers reserved for the group, all 56 members of the Inquirer Outdoor Club and TMP's [illegible] had at least four sightings and interactions with the Butanding. Some groups even had as many as seven sightings.

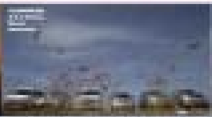
Mother Nature wasn't finished showing her wonders after this, though. On Saturday night, the group was treated to a natural light show on the Ogod River. Tens of thousands of fireflies converged on the mangroves lining the river, their flickering lights turning them into Christmas trees, [illegible]

TOYOTA B[illegible]

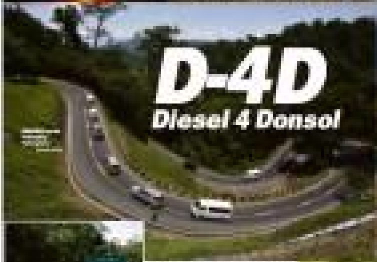


THE CAMARIA fleet and the unusually "revealing" Mount Mayon seem happy to pose with Toyota's [illegible]





D-4D
Diesel 4 Donsol





















The 2010 Pajero: what's new



On the Road

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

[illegible]



THIS cockpit looks familiar.



SAME view from the rear as in 2007



THE SAME 3.2-liter common rail direct injection diesel engine

The difference

[illegible]

Safe

[illegible]

Stable

[illegible]

MOTORING

Editor Joey R. Arrocena(?)

A ride fit for the President



THE MERCEDES-Benz S600 Guard into the presidential car has all what a ride should be: stately, stylish, luxurious and power all in one package.

By Charles E. Buban

IT'S THE ONLY CAR that the winner of the 2010 presidential elections would be more than honored to alight from when the big day finally arrives on June 30, the day he will officially be sworn in as the country's new head of state.

Forget about its elongated [illegible] body, its [illegible] or its P70 million price tag, just being seated inside the Mercedes-Benz S600 Guard that bears the plate number "1" and "[illegible]" would already be enough to make its occupant feel, well, presidential.

Only the privileged few know what's it like to be seated inside such a stately ride.

But since getting a presidential license to spend some time inside the official state car would be next to impossible, this writer decided to head to Cats Motors—the official distributor of Mercedes-Benz brand here—to know more of the well-protected, high-technology car.

10th generation

Cats Motors informed that the presidential car is a 10th generation S-Class, the biggest, the fastest, the most expensive and the most luxurious in the Mercedes-Benz lineup.

Every S-Class comes very well appointed and has all the goods to enable the country's most important individual travel in complete style and comfort.

To realize this, Mercedes-Benz designers dressed the interior to the nines, landscaping every inch of the S-Class with hand-polished Brown Poplar wood trimmings and premium grade leather hides.

The rear seats feature ventilation that allows air to circulate through the seat cushion, drawing off perspiration to [illegible]. The rear seats also feature an active lumbar mode in which air chambers built into the seatback can be programmed to "breathe," inflating and deflating fully about twice each minute (this slight repetitive movement has been proven to relax the spine and back muscles) to provide a soothing massage as well.

Refrigerator/wine cooler

Need a drink? The S-Class is also equipped with a refrigerator/wine cooler (located between the rear seatbacks) that is big enough to fit two bottles of the finest wine or bottled water from some remote [illegible].

If the road trip is going to be long, the rear [illegible] of the S600's front seat headrests feature 8-inch displays that is connected to the car's [illegible] system.

Whether it's movies or music the occupants is watching or listening to, [illegible] Harman Kardon [illegible] its 14-channel amplifier as well as its 14 speakers, strategically located around the cabin will provide each occupant the best surround sound experience (there is a remote control unit which enables to control all the audio as well as other external devices connected to the car's Media Interface).

Want to work while riding to your next destination? Each S-Class is also provided with fold-out wood tables (located at the back of each of the front seats) that makes an excellent base when using a laptop, drafting or revising a speech or the next [illegible]

Specially produced

The S600 Guard that is now the current presidential car is specially produced at Mercedes-Benz's own armoring facility in Sindelfingen, Germany.

Rather than retrofitting the protective elements to an already finished S600, the specialists at the facility fully integrate them into the body shell during a separate and independent production process on a dedicated production line.

This means while the S600 Guard tips the scales just shy of a jaw-dropping 3 [illegible]

[illegible]







Celebrity toys on display at MIAS 2010





BMW Performance offers best options

Subaru shows off complete model line-up

Trans Sport Show slated April 21-25

Suzuki Swift: a sporty compact car



Mitsubishi launches L300 FB Exceed 17-seater





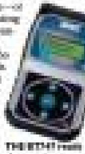
A ride fit for the President







Think of "lobat" or "nobat" no more with bt747 tester





Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

LIFESTYLE
Home & Entertaining



THREE-PIECE musician series in oil by Anthony Palomo at the piano bar area

The chic interiors people are talking about

By Alex Y. Vergara

MUCH HAS BEEN said about St. Luke's Medical Center-Global City's state-of-the-art medical equipment and facilities, including a helipad, sprawling podium and multilevel parking area that could fit 1,200 cars.

[illegible]

BenCab, Cacnio, Borlongan, Orlina—in a hospital

BENCAB C5



Eggball and bubble chairs, Pinoy-style



(ABOVE) THE [illegible] Chair, inspired by [illegible]. Bahay-kubo Chair designers are Mikael Basalo, Aldwin Rosales and Rafael Lopez, 2nd year Interior Design students of Polytechnic University of the Philippines.



EERO Aarnio's iconic Egg Ball Chair, created in 1963



THE [illegible] Chair, inspired by the [illegible] into a functional sculptural art and a versatile accent piece.

VARIATIONS OF THE ICONIC Eggball and Bubble Chairs by modern furniture designer Eero Aarnio are showcased in "Aarnovation: Filipino Versions of the Mind-Bubbling Eggball-ution," at the Kalakal Hall of SM City North Edsa's Interior Zone, until April 15.

The exhibit is a project of 84 Interior Design students from the College of Architecture and Fine Arts of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP). It features 12 prototypes of these acclaimed chairs designed by the school's talented students.

Eero Aarnio is a Finnish interior designer well-known for his innovative designs in plastic and fiberglass chairs. The Ball Chair he designed in 1963, with its hollow sphere and stand, also became known as the Globe Chair because of its conventional shape.

In 1968, he designed the Bubble Chair—an offshoot of the Ball Chair—which is suspended from above and made clear. Aarnio also became known for his Pastil Chair, a floating plastic chair which is very similar in shape to a solid [illegible], as well as the Tomato Chair and the Screw Table.

"Aarnovation: Filipino Versions of the Mind-Bubbling Eggball-ution," is one of the many events at the SM City North Edsa Interior Zone, which hosts many innovative and interesting home stores.





(FAR RIGHT) The [illegible] Chair designed by [illegible], 2nd year Interior Design students of PUP (above)



[illegible] Chair designers [illegible], 2nd year Interior Design students of PUP







THE TRAMPOLIN Chair, inspired by the popular Filipino [illegible], pays tribute to the [illegible]. (Above) Trampolin Chair designers [illegible], 2nd year PUP Interior Design students





(AT RIGHT) The [illegible] Chair is a variation on Eero Aarnio's Egg Chair [illegible]. (Above) [illegible] Chair designers [illegible], 2nd year Interior Design students of PUP

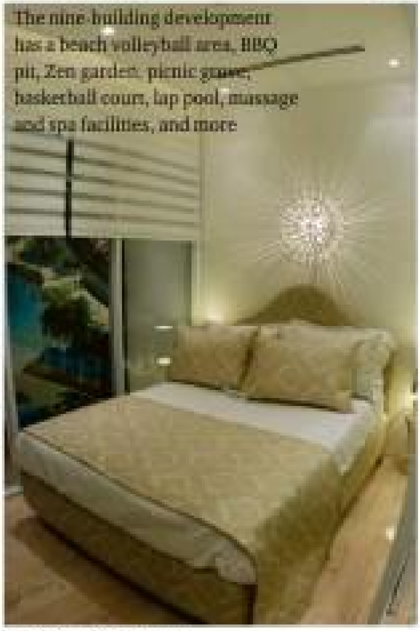




THE SALAKOT Chair [illegible] Bubble Chair [illegible]. (Right) Salakot Chair designers [illegible], 2nd year Interior Design students of PUP



GLASS and mirrors create depth and space.



DOWNTOWN Chic's gold and white look

Resort living comes to the city

By Anna A. Jardeleza



THE CONTEMPORARY design of Luna



DOWNTOWN Chic's white elements are meant to appeal mostly to women, said interior designer Chut Foro.

BEACH LIFE MOVES TO THE CITY as the country's leading high-end property developer officially launched its latest project.

Century Properties' Azure Urban Resort Residences offer resort-like amenities such as beach volleyball area, BBQ pit, Zen garden, outdoor picnic grove, basketball court, lap pool, massage and spa facilities, and more.

Given these features, who would've thought individual units are so affordable at P12,000/month?

Century Properties, developer of ultra luxurious residential properties such as Essensa East Forbes, is launching this project under its new brand category Century Limitless.

"We couldn't ignore the demands of the middle class," said John Victor Antonio, managing director and COO of Century Properties Group.

The nine-building residential resort will be located in Parañaque City. That's eight minutes from Alabang, eight minutes from Makati and eight minutes from the airport, said Antonio, who even timed the distance himself using the Skyway.

Azure is located on SUCAT (West Service Road) in Parañaque, adjacent to SM Bicutan. It's a short drive from malls, school, hospitals and other establishments such as the Alabang Town Center, Festival Mall, Ayala Alabang Village, Magallanes Village, Villamor Golf Club, Southville International School, De La Salle Santiago Zobel School, Asian Hospital.

Masterplanned by the British firm Broadway Malyan, the development has a sustainable design that devotes only 20 percent of the total land area to residential buildings. That leaves 80 percent to open spaces, landscape and amenities.

"We are the only firm that gets foreign architects. Azure is like an international development on Philippine soil," Antonio said.

Antonio travels to six different offices abroad each year to check for the best firms that can execute his team's development ideas. For Azure alone, he spent eight months with the architect, going back and forth on every detail of the design.

"We are very passionate about what we do. Azure is for the affordable market, but this will be treated like all Century Property projects. From materials to design to execution and finally to delivery, expect the best quality for your money from us," he said.

The Azure Urban Resort Residences showrooms are located at 2/F Pacific Star Low-Rise Building, Makati Avenue cor. Gil Puyat Avenue (Buendia), Makati City. Visit www.azure.com.ph for more information.







Allana Montelibano celebrates her 30th birthday with series of dinner parties

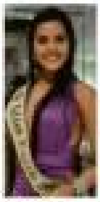




WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH



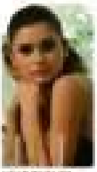








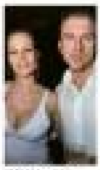




Wine tasting

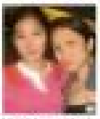




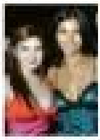


Ms Earth victory party

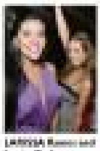













TOP-OF-THE-LINE suite at St. Luke's Medical Center in Fort Bonifacio Global City


DINING area in one of the hospital's suites


RECEIVING area of a hospital suite

The chic interiors people are talking about

From page C1

ings: those of Cacnio's, a figurative series of watercolor paintings depicting various provinces of medicine in the country, including an image of national hero Dr. Jose Rizal attending to his visually impaired mother.


JOHN Santos III's mural at the main building's receiving area

'Institutional' project

Of course, there have been attempts to incorporate art in public areas. St. Luke's Medical Center's older and smaller Quezon City address has its share of art pieces.

But this latest attempt by St. Luke's, said Dr. Joven Cuanang, the establishment's chief medical officer and SVP for medical affairs, is an "institutional" project. Far from being just afterthoughts to fill in a blank wall or a lonely corner, he said, art pieces are integral to the buildings' interiors.

Both buildings were designed partly to showcase art pieces. As Cuanang described it, this time, the attempt to incorporate art at St. Luke's Global City is "more methodical and systematic."

"These pieces belong to the hospital," said Cuanang, a known avid art collector and gallery owner. "They don't belong to any particular person. They're not part of my collection."

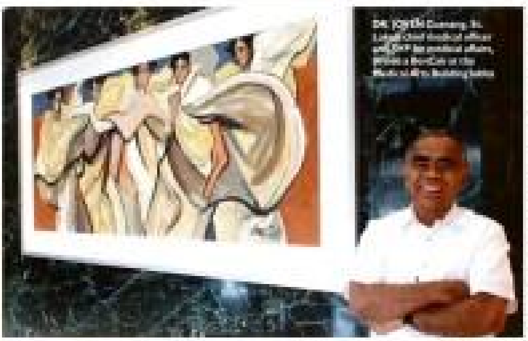
Cuanang was responsible for choosing most of the artists. He declined to reveal how much the art investment is and the arrangement the hospital made to acquire it, but he didn't dictate on them what to do. His only request was for artists to produce pieces that are "uplifting."

Tempered work

Borlongan, whose work is in the hospital's piano bar on the main building's mezzanine floor, is known for producing magnified paintings. This time, said Cuanang, he tempered his work, but the very qualities that make it a Borlongan such as the presence of huge, distorted figures are still very evident.

"Although the painting is brighter and happier than his typical work, the angst is still there," Cuanang added. "It won't be an Elmer Borlongan without the angst."

If Cuanang had his way even paintings as supposedly disturbing and graphic as those by the late National Artist Ang Kiukok could make it on the walls of St. Luke's.


DR. JOVEN Cuanang, St. Luke's chief medical officer and SVP for medical affairs, beside a BenCab at the Medical Arts Building lobby


CEILING design, which resembles a skylight, draws the patient's eye and hopefully calms him or her down during examination

"Most of his works are reflections of his angst," said Cuanang. "But there are Ang Kiukoks that are light and pleasant such as his clown series."

Cuanang knew even before St. Luke's new branch was inaugurated early this year that he'd put a BenCab in the Medical Arts Building lobby. He also deemed Santos' bigger work appropriate for the much bigger main lobby.

But pairing each artwork with a particular section of both buildings would have been too time-consuming for the busy neurologist. So St. Luke's had to hire a curator—Mod. Cuan—whose main task was to match an artwork with the type of service in a particular section.

He sometimes also had to work around the hospital's interiors and color schemes, designed by interior designer Isabel Berenguer Ancheta.

Open to all

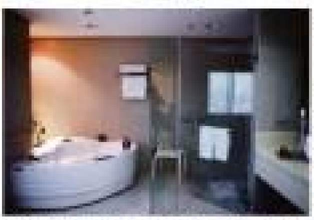
"In the end, we wanted to come up with an institution where health care as well as fine arts would be at their best," he said. "This hospital is envisioned as a showcase of the best that Filipinos could achieve in both sciences and the arts."

But he was quick to point out that although St. Luke's spared no expense to realize its dream of providing Filipinos with medical care comparable to the world's best, its Global City branch, just like the one in Quezon City is open to people "from all walks of life."

For Cuanang, achieving wellness should also be a holistic approach that goes beyond the mere potent medicine and the latest medical equipment. It should be about the "total experience."

He wants to do away with the stereotype of hospitals as depressing and sterile environments devoid of soul. And one way of doing this is by exposing people to beautiful artworks.

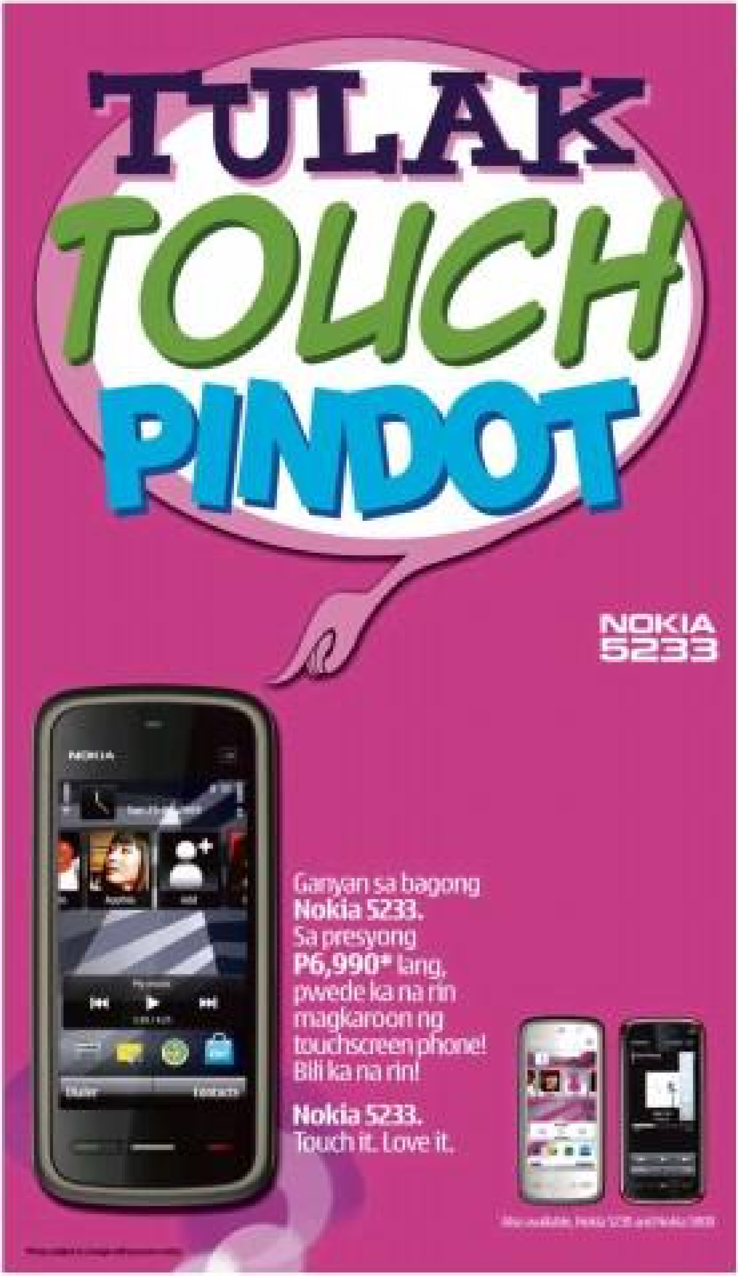
"Every Filipino should be able to experience hospital care in the best of environments," he said. "We always equate artworks with rich people. This shouldn't be the case because art is universal. As such, it should be enjoyed and celebrated, and those who have it are obliged to share it with others."


A JACUZZI, perhaps the first of its kind in a Philippine hospital, in one of St. Luke's top-of-the-line suites


LIFE-SIZE sculpture near elevator


INTERIORS designed by Isabel Berenguer Ancheta


OVERHEAD view of main building lobby





Winners of Little Ms Confetti Princess

[illegible]



[illegible]

Filmmaking, theater workshops

[illegible]

Green holistic website launch

[illegible]

Mexican street dance parade

[illegible]

Show at Sining Kamalig

[illegible]



Bel-Air folk get together for 'Pasinaya' camaraderie, cuisine–and dancing

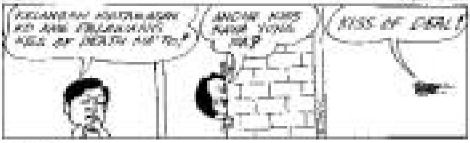


WHEN BARANgay Bel-Air's officials come into rehearsal for the annual Pasinaya showcase, there is no special treatment for them. They may call the shots when it comes to managing the community's many affairs, they may be the ones working overtime and on overdrive to keep the annual, three-day Pasinaya celebration running smoothly, but when it's time to take off the management caps and put on the dancing shoes, they toe the line like everyone else.

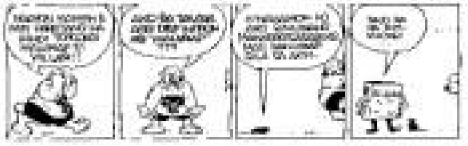


GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS



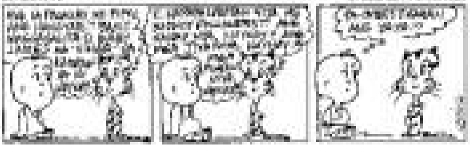


PUGAD BABOY



DICK TRACY





JAMES BOND





BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT



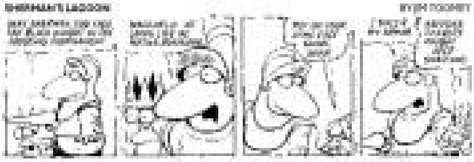




KIKO MACHINE



SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY



HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

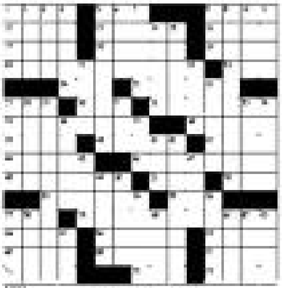
HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

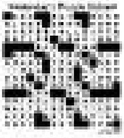
Conceptis Sudoku

				9				
	8		2		3		1	
		5				7		
			8		9			
9			7	3	5		6	4
7	5			2		1	3	
	4	9		8	1	2		
			5	6				
				7				

Difficulty Level ★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE







BEL-AIR officials and residents





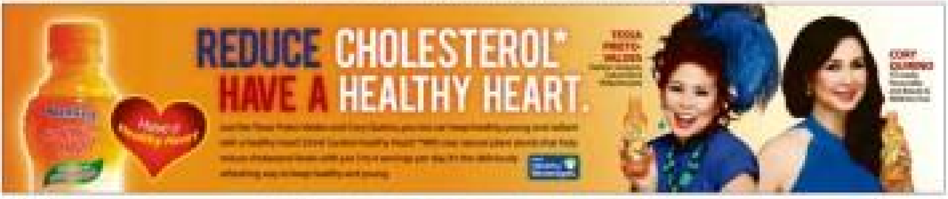
Bel-Air folk get together…

Good help is indeed hard to find

THE CONSUMER
Linda B. Bolido

Refund delayed

Replacement isn't easy



D.I.Y. *Do-it-yourself*

With Arsen Borreliva and Marissa Lapa

How vignettes add color to a room

No matter how small the space

CHANGE THE LOOK OF YOUR house to match the season. Here are tips on how to give a room a quick facelift.

• [illegible]

• [illegible]

• [illegible]

Items for the vignette

[illegible]





ELICANO MARKS 20TH BIRTHDAY

[illegible]

New food supplements

[illegible]

WHAT'S UP

[illegible]



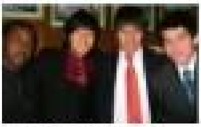
LIFESTYLE *Parenting*

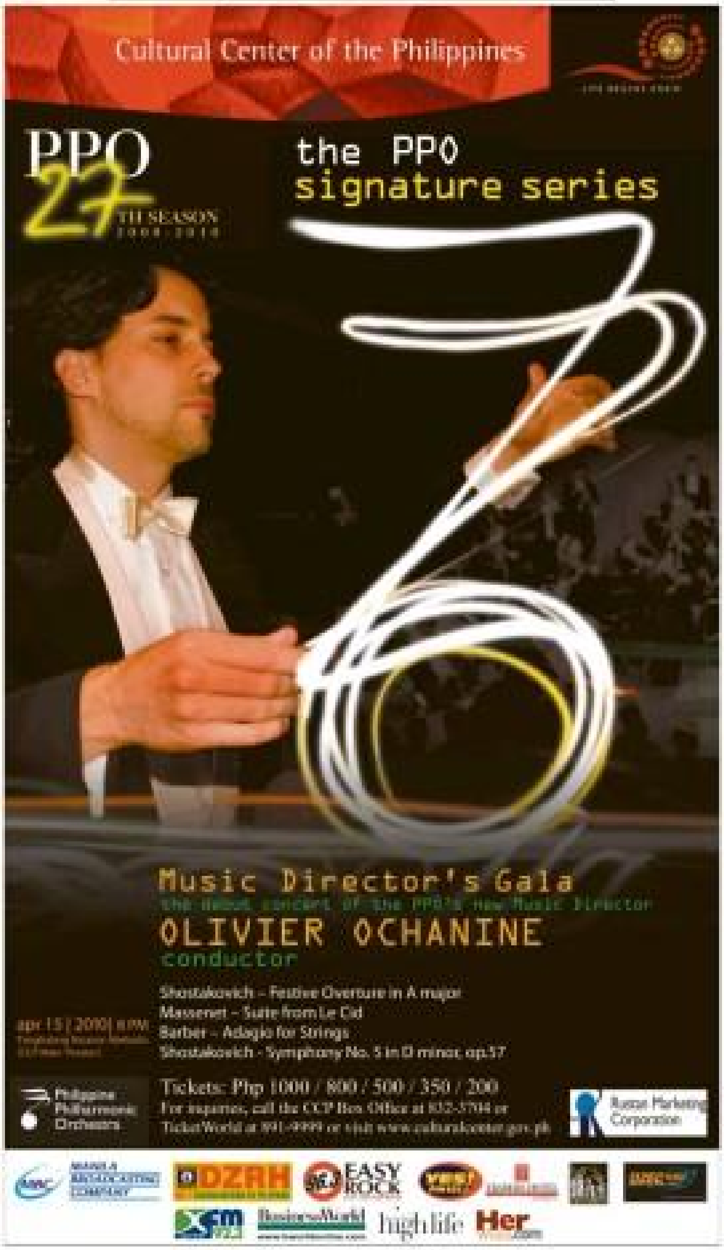
How your kids can have a 'global mindset'–if they're to thrive in 21st century

We've experienced the difference between parenting in the '80s and today. My 12-year-old is in a more mobile world where he interacts with other cultures



How your kids can have a 'global mindset'–if they're to thrive in 21st century







'Revolutionary' 3D LED TV gets rave reviews



SAMSUNG'S full HD 3D LED TV 7000

Tom and Jerry return to enliven airline's travel kit



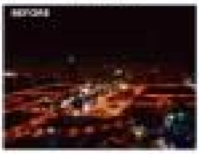
Colors of summer



Earth Hour in Bonifacio Global City







BEFORE



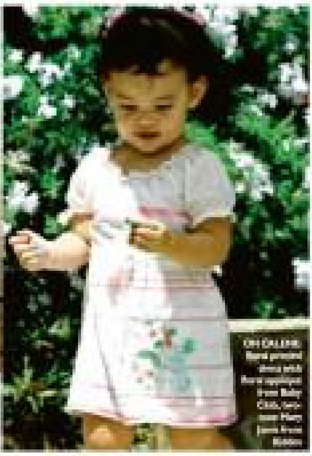
AFTER











Plaid for him, paisley for her



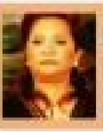
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ENTERTAINMENT

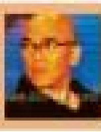
Editor Bronnie G. Velarde







OVERHEARD





Int'l movie group seeks RP as host

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE PHILIPPINES has been invited by the Association of Film Commissioners International (AFCI) to host its annual board meeting in June, Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP) chair Rolando Atienza announced recently.





Int'l…

First Russian film fest in the country was held at CCP recently

Russian fest

Main goal

Son's 'karma,' says his mama



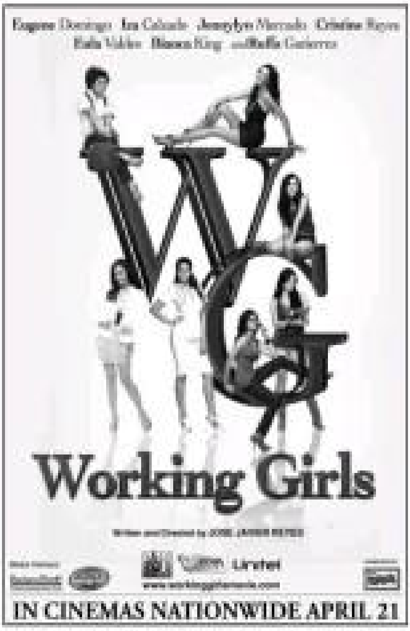
KRIS Aquino with James Jr.

KRIS AQUINO on her youngest son, James Jr., who ... [illegible]

—Bayani ... [illegible]



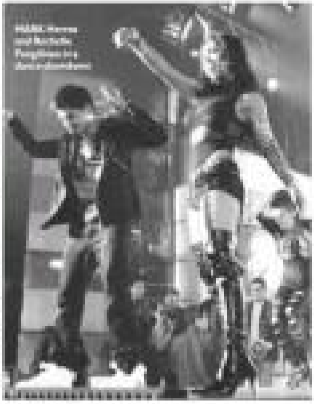








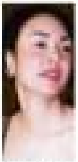
Kapuso all-star bash launches 20 shows









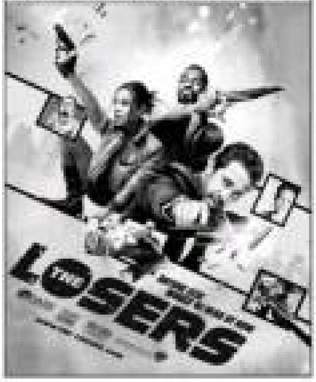


GRETCHEN Barretto

OVERHEARD

That hurt!









An expensive Korean version of 'ASAP'

REVIEW

Standout number

OPENING THIS WEEK


CRAIG Robinson, Rob Corddry, Clark Duke and John Cusack
LEONARDO DiCaprio and Michelle Williams

Paano Ko Sasabihin?

Shutter Island

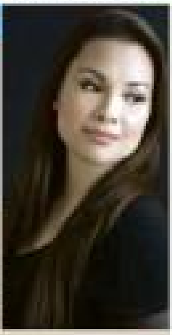
Hot Tub Time Machine

Kick-Ass

Beautiful faces online

Stars shine in cyberspace



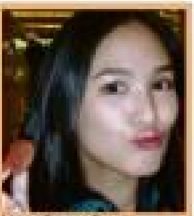


Lea Salonga

Karylle



Lovi Poe



Heart Evangelista

Ciara Sotto

Always a brat



Mrs. Two-Face

Modeling expert

RUSHES

Long-distance affair

Ugly network war

Off with her weight!

Crash course

No takers

Top of the talk shows



KC: Crash course in hosting, from Boy